May 8 - May 14, 2025 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 19 www.associatednewspapers.net

Community Calendar

Community Bike Ride rolling

In partnership with the Northville Township Police Department, Maybury State Park will host a free Community Bike Ride from 6 until 8 p.m. May 14.

The free event includes various length rides for all ages. Vendors will be on-site with refreshments, safety tips, and giveaways. A Recreation Passport is required for all vehicles entering Maybury State Park. Pre-Registration is not required. For more information on Recreation Passports, visit michigan.gov/recreationpassport or contact Maybury State Park at (248) 349-8390.

Romulus Friends of the Library will host Silent Auction

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library will host the annual Silent Auction, from 5 until 7 p.m.. Saturday, May 31. from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Available for bidding will be items donated by community leaders, businesses and members of the friends.

Annual Flower Sale set

The Northville Flower Sale returns to downtown Northville from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. May 23 and 24. Visitors will walk through a huge display of perennials, herbs, annuals, roses, shrubs, exotic plants, and trees from local growers.

Tours of Plymouth Wilcox House available

The Plymouth Historic Museum will host a guided tour of the historic Wilcox House, known as the Markham House, June 1. The tour will be guided by Frank Cozza, who will portray William "Phil" Markham who built the house for his mistress Blanche Shortman. Samantha Joseph will portray Shortman during the tours set for 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Tickets are priced at $20 and sold for the individual time slots. The tours last about one hour.

Tickets for the tour are priced at $20 and are now on sale to the public. Organizers cautioned that the event is expected to sell out quickly. The tour is sponsored by Ernie Hughes and First Financial Strategies.

The Wilcox House is located at 676 Penniman Ave, Plymouth in downtown Plymouth. Tickets are available at Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170. For more information, call (734) 455-8940 or email secretary@plymouthhistory.org

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE Vol. 140, No. 19
THE CANTON EAGLE Vol. 78, No. 19
THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR Vol. 78, No. 19
THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE Vol. 25, No. 19
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE Vol. 25, No. 19
THE ROMULUS ROMAN Vol. 140, No. 19
THE WAYNE EAGLE Vol. 78, No.19
THE WESTLAND EAGLE Vol. 78, No. 19

Canton police nab suspects in storage unit thefts

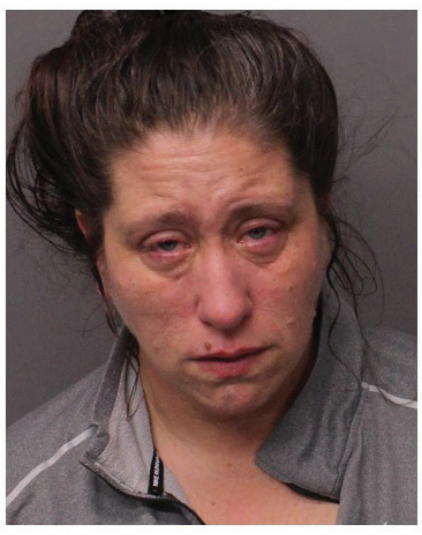
Two Indiana residents are facing felony criminal charges in relation to a series of break-ins at Canton Township storage facilities.

Officers from the Canton Township Police Investigative Bureau initiated an investigation in April, following reports of break-ins at storage operations located in the area of Joy Road and Haggerty Road. Detectives identified Umar Long and Michelle Gilbert as people of interest during the investigation.

Canton officers apprehended Long on April 27 in the act of breaking into additional storage units. He was taken into police custody and a search warrant issued for a Canton-area hotel where police arrested Gilbert and recovered stolen property estimated in value at tens of thousands of dollars, police said.

Police officials said more than 30 victims of thefts by the suspects have been identified. Additional victims may exist, police said, as the investigation continues. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office formally charged 45-year-old Umar Long and 41-year-old Michelle Gilbert, both of Indianapolis, Ind., each with one count of larceny of $20,000 or more, a 10-year felony; receiving and concealing stolen property, $20,000 or more, a 10-year felony and five counts of breaking and entering, each count a 10-year felony.

Umar Long



Michelle Gilbert

Both defendants were arraigned April 29 before Judge Michael Gerou of the 35th District Court and each was issued a $50,000 cash bond. Their next court appearance is scheduled for May 9, at the 35th District Court.

Police said they encourage anyone who believes they may be a victim in this situation to contact the department at (734) 394-5400.

Northville deputy chief appointed state fire marshal

Northville Township Deputy Fire Chief Tom Hughes has been appointed as the Michigan State Fire Marshal by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Hughes, a Northville Township native who spent his entire nearly 21-year career with the Northville Township Fire Department, will retire from the department May 23 to accept the prestigious state appointment. He begins his new role June 2.

Northville Township Fire Training Coordinator Jesse Marcotte, who was promoted, will step into the role of Deputy Fire Chief May 24 to ensure department continuity, a spokesman noted.

"To have Tom Hughes selected by the governor's office for a position that is highly impactful to the entire state of Michigan speaks volumes of his talents," said Northville Township Supervisor Mark J. Abbo. "Tom is an exceptional member of the Northville Township Fire Department. He has exceptional firefighting skills, exceptional people skills, and exceptional leadership skills. Tom Hughes is a true professional."

The State Fire Marshal is the chief advocate of fire safety for Michigan citizens, the fire service and others affected by the Michigan Fire Prevention Code and the Fire Fighters Training Council Act. He will lead the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

Prior to becoming Northville Township Deputy Fire Chief in January 2024, Hughes was the Department Fire Marshal for seven years and previously, a fire inspector for five years.

"Deputy Chief Hughes has been a cornerstone of our fire department, known for his strong leadership, deep integrity and commitment," said Fire Chief Brent Siegel. "Over the past two decades, he has served with distinction, mentoring, leading and always putting the community first. While we will miss him, we are so proud of him and how his exemplary career has led him to this amazing opportunity."

State Fire Marshal Tom Hughes

Deputy Chief Hughes has been a cornerstone of our fire department, known for his strong leadership, deep integrity and commitment.

Hughes' dedication to Northville Township is life-long. He grew up in the community he currently serves, joining the department in 2004 as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He developed the Northville Township fire prevention division, introducing such innovative Community Risk Reduction initiatives as the Kindergarten Fire and Life Safety Program. Since 2017, every kindergartner in Northville Public Schools learned fire prevention skills thanks to Hughes' involvement. He recently launched a continuation of that program to educate fourth graders, winning a grant to expand the effort.

The Northville Chamber of Commerce named him the Northville Township 2025 Volunteer of the Year.

"Tom has long been an outstanding ambassador for Northville Township," Abbo said. "We are so grateful for all he has done for this community. We know the rest of the state will benefit from his leadership and his talents."

Hughes replaces state Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeyer, who resigned from the position he held since April 2017.

"I want people to know how deeply grateful I am for the opportunity to serve the Northville community," Hughes said. "My path was set early in life. After a car accident that impacted my family, the response of the Southfield Fire Department, the professionals at the University of Michigan, to experiencing a total loss house fire in middle school, service was always at the foundation of who I am. I've been able to spend the last 20 years serving the community, engaging with different fire service groups and boards, and working with an incredible group of professionals. It has been an honor to work alongside such talented and dedicated individuals, and I'm proud of everything we've accomplished together. This new role is not an end, but a new chapter in my journey, and I will continue to support the incredible work happening at the Northville Township Fire Department and within our community."

Township man charged with kidnapping, rape of 14-year-old

Charles Willis

A 22-year-old Northville Township man is facing multiple felony charges in connection to his enticement of a 14-year-old girl to his home for immoral purposes.

Charles Willis was arraigned April 30, at the 35th District Court on multiple felony charges, including kidnapping, enticing a female under 16 for immoral purposes, child sexually abusive activity and criminal sexual conduct – first degree. Bond was set at $1 million, and Willis currently remains in custody at the Wayne County Jail.

Police said the felony charges stem from an incident that began April 25. Through the course of an investigation, Northville Township detectives determined that Willis had contacted a 14-year-old female victim through the social media platform Snapchat. According to police, Willis then arranged and paid for an Uber to bring the juvenile—who resides approximately two hours west of Northville Township—to his Northville Township home.

While at Willis' residence, the victim was instructed to stay in the basement, according to police reports. At about 5:30 a.m. April 27, the victim was found walking alone in the area of Seven Mile and Sheldon roads, police said. Detectives from the Northville Township Police Department executed a search warrant at Willis' residence Sunday, April 27. Willis was taken into custody at that time, police said.

Investigators noted that Willis has had prior contacts with other law enforcement agencies related to sexually inappropriate behavior and attempts to entice minor females. His previous contact with Northville Township Police was unrelated to these charges, according to police officials.

This is an active investigation, police said, and anyone who believes they or their child may have been in contact with the suspect, or may be a victim, is urged to contact the Northville Township Police Detective Bureau immediately at (248) 349-9400.

Canton home among 3 raided by authorities

A Canton Township home was the subject of a raid by local, state and federal agents last week. Search warrants were issued for homes in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Canton for searches in connection to campus protests at the University of Michigan, according to an attorney representing one of the homeowners. No arrests were made at any of the three homes, but agents seized electronic devices at all three locations.

Pro Palestine college students claim the raids were in retaliation of their protest involvement although law enforcement officials denied that claim.

"There's no question it took everybody by surprise, the scale of it took people by surprise," said John Philo, an attorney from a law firm representing multiple student organizations whose members have rallied for Palestine. "They've clearly been following the students for a period of time."

"They (agents) seized all their electronics," Philo said. "We expect that there's a search of that equipment going on now. They seized the car at one home. They searched bread boxes. Just a wide scope of things that don't seem to point in any one direction," Philo told a television news station.

A spokesman from the office of the attorney general said the raids were not connected to protests at the college or college grounds. The spokesperson said ICE and immigration services were not involved in the execution of the warrants. The search warrants, according to the spokesman, were in regard to vandalism.

"That is breathtaking, shocking and appalling, that acts of vandalism at least on the scale that's occurred at the University of Michigan campus, are no more than misdemeanors, are drawing out federal police, the state attorney general is coordinating with Trump's administration's FBI, the state troopers are there, for something they're calling acts of vandalism," Philo said."

Meet the champs

Members of the PVT James D Donovan/ Romulus VFW Post 78 brought home first place honors in team competition at the 78th VFW of Michigan State Pool Tournament held in Manistee recently. Team members included, from left, Dave Cowdrick, Norm Wisnewski, Jim Hogg, Capt. Mike O'Brien, Jon Teagan and Bob Williams. In addition to the team honors, Wisnewski, Teagan and Hogg took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in singles competition respectively.

Westland police awarded state accreditation status

Members of the Westland Police Department have achieved recognition of their professional performance from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC).

The prestigious accreditation from MLEAC is presented when a police department performs in accordance with a rigid set of policies and procedures meeting the best practice standards set by MLEAC. Not only does the department need to assure that all policies are in line with these best practices, but the accreditation agency does multiple on-site assessments to assure that these standards are consistently in practice..

Of the nearly 600 law enforcement agencies in the State of Michigan, the MLEAC accreditation has only been obtained by 90 departments. Most Michigan law enforcement agencies are accredited by either MLEAC, (State) or CALEA, (National). The Westland Police Department has worked to obtain accreditation from both agencies, making them only the fifth department throughout the entire State of Michigan to achieve dual accreditation, officials said.

Westland man facing federal charges in jewelry store theft

A 59-year-old Westland man is facing federal charges in the April 15 armed robbery at a Warren Road jewelry store in the city.

According to reports from Westland police officials, John Talerico is facing federal Hobbs Act robbery and firearm charges following the incident during which store employees were reportedly pepper-sprayed and locked in a storeroom. The suspect was arrested after surveillance camera data tracked his vehicle to his Westland home, according to officials.

Talerico attempted to pawn a gold necklace taken during the robbery later the same day, according to reports. Surveillance footage shows the suspect, now believed to be Talerico, entering the jewelry store several times and returning at about 2 p.m. April 15 when the robbery occurred. The suspect brandished a black handgun and forced store employees to put 10 gold rings, three Cuban-link chains and about $200 in cash into his bag. The employees were then pepper-sprayed and locked in a back room, according to police reports.

About an hour after the jewelry store robbery, police say the suspect pawned a men's yellow-gold rope necklace in Detroit, providing Talerico's Michigan driver's license as identification. According to court records, Talerico was previously convicted for 2011 multistate robberies.

A criminal complaint has been filed with the U.S District Court in the Eastern District of Michigan by a special agent from the FBI Detroit Violent Crime Task Force. Federal authorities are pursuing robbery and possession of firearm charges against Talerico.

Details of the federal complaint allege that the suspect initially asked jewelry store employees questions about lab-created diamonds and indicated he was interested in purchasing two rings. He then briefly left the store, re-entered, and then pulled out a handgun, pointing it at one of the store employees. He ordered that employee to place 10 rings and three necklaces into a bag, threatening physical harm if an alarm was triggered.

The suspect then led two employees to a back room, where he took $200 from a cash register.

"The suspect then pepper-sprayed the victims, shut them in the back room and fled the location," the FBI report said.

Westland police checked security video from nearby stores and noticed a black sedan in the parking lot of the store that morning. The robbery suspect was seen on security video walking into the Westland Mall entrance. Police tracked the license plate on the suspect vehicle to Talerico, who faces federal indictment on the charges.

Police seize illegal 'whippet' devices

Inkster police officers seized more than 3,000 illegal 'whippets' from a party store in the city.

Whippets, also known as nitrous oxide chargers, are small canisters intended for use in whipped cream dispensers. They are often misused as a recreational drug, police said. When inhaled, the gas can cause a short-lived high.
The devices were seized from the 25 Hour Party Store, located on Michigan Avenue near John near John Daly is accused of selling whippets to youths.

" We will not tolerate this in our city," said Police Chief Tamika Jenkins.

The store owner was cited, and the items were confiscated during a raid last week, police said.

INVITATION TO BID

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE 11111 WAYNE ROAD ROMULUS, MI 48174
ITB 24/25-16 SWAN LAKE DRIVE AND SWAN LAKE COURT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT # 2500126

City of Romulus is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project: ITB 24/25-16 Swan Lake Drive and Swan Lake Court Reconstruction Project 2500126

Bid submissions shall include one USB storage device and two hard copies of the contractor's response documents (one marked "Original" and one marked "Copy") submitted together in one sealed envelope/package and received by the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 PM local time, on May 29,2025. All timely received bids will be publicly opened and read.

All bids should be clearly addressed:

City of Romulus, City of Romulus Clerk's Office
ITB 24/25-16 Swan Lake Dr and Swan Lake Court Reconstruction
Project # 2500126
11111 Wayne Road
Romulus, MI 48174

Project documents for this project shall be on file on and after 1:00 PM, May 8, 2025, at the City of Romulus Clerk's Office or may also be examined from the office of the City's Engineer, ROWE, 540 S. Saginaw Street, Ste. 200, Flint, MI 48502 (Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) or online on the Michigan Inter- Governmental Trade Network (MITN) Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct (https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn).

Qualified contractors wishing to submit a bid must use the forms provided by the City. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. Copies of documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies.

In preparing bids, contractors are advised to rely only upon the contents of this ITB and accompanying contract documents and any written clarifications or addenda issued by the City of Romulus' Engineers.
All questions must be submitted to Brian Matthew Sarkella of ROWE via email (BSarkella@rowepsc.com) before May 20, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.
No communication is permitted between companies and other City of Romulus Departments, Divisions Officials or employees prior to the award of the bid unless sanctioned by the City's Purchasing Director.

Clarifications, modifications, or amendments may be made to this solicitation at the discretion of the City and the City's Engineers. Any and all addenda issued by the City will be posted on the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain all issued addenda and acknowledge receipt of said addenda on the Bid Form submitted.

Bid security in the form of a certified or cashier's check or suitable bid bond for a sum no less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the Bid will be required with each Bid.

The City of Romulus reserves the right to postpone the bid opening without notification and to accept or reject any bid and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in bids received and to award the contract in whole or in part.

No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of the Bids.

Neither the submission of nor acceptance of any bid shall constitute a contract between any bidder and the City of Romulus. No such contract shall exist without first being approved by a formal action of the Members of the Romulus City Council and only after all required bonds and proof of insurances and copies of endorsements have been received by the City and the agreement is signed by authorized representatives of the City of Romulus and the successful Bidder.

The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

Published: May 8, 2025

PUBLIC AUCTION

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION.
THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY MAY 13, 2025 AT 10 A.M AT 6345 HIX, WESTLAND MI.
THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS. STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

VEHICLES ARE SOLD AS IS AND MAY BE REMOVED FROM AUCTION PRIOR TO BIDDING. ALL BIDS START AT AMOUNT SHOWN FOR TOWING AND STORAGE FEES

AMOUNT	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
$5,162.50	2020	CHRYSLER	300	BLACK	2C3CCABG3LH141749
$2,989.00	2008	SATURN	AURA	RED	1G8ZS57B98F224750
$2,410.00	2016	BUICK	VERANO	BLUE	1G4PP5SK8G4127096
$2,820.00	2001	FORD	F150	RED	1FTRW07W71KB85508
$2,500.00	2012	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	TAN	1G1ZB5E02CF302147
$2,485.00	2010	LINCOLN	MKZ	BLACK	3LNHL2GC9AR655695
$2,656.00	2000	HONDA	ACCORD	SILVER	1HGCG5643YA003983
$2,350.00	2003	DODGE	DAKOTA	RED	1D7FL36N63S266319
$2,185.00	2012	CADILLAC	SRX	BLACK	3GYFNAE31CS616866
$2,065.00	2010	CHEVROLET	COBALT	BLUE	1G1AF5F52A7235553
$1,845.00	2014	LAND ROVER		BLACK	SALFR2BGXEH382755
$1,840.00	2009	TOYOTA	COROLLA	SILVER	JTDBL40E99J041155
$1,330.00	2011	TOYOTA	RAV 4	BROWN	2TEBF4DV8BW169699
$1,586.00	2004	OLDSMOBILE	ALERO	WHITE	1G3NL52F54C224512
$1,185.00	2008	FORD	FOCUS	WHITE	1FAHP35N98W146030
$1,380.00	2013	FORD	CMAX	GRAY	1FADP5AU4DL522443
$1,150.00	2008	HONDA	CIVIC	BLACK	2HGFG12828H533944